

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7981

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 1921

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASSXX, AU

SUBJ: CHANGES IN FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM: AUSTRIA

REF: STATE 051768

1. THE USG FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM (FMTP) FOR AUSTRIA IS SMALL IN SIZE AND THEREFORE HIGHLY SELECTIVE IN CONTENT. IT HAS PROVIDED IN RECENT YEARS FOR THE ATTENDANCE ON AN ANNUAL BASIS OF ONE SENIOR FIELD GRADE OFFICER AT U.S. COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGES.

2. EMBASSY DAO RECORDS INDICATE FOLLOWING FIGURES (IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS) FOR FMTP FOR AUSTRIA IN FY 1974-76.

FY 1974 FY 1975 FY 1976

A. REQUESTED FOR GOA 31.6 19.2 17.2

B. APPROVED BY USG 31.6 23.0 25.0

C. USED BY GOA 27.2 14.7 16.9

GOA HAS IN PAST NO FULLY USED FMTP FUNDS LARGELY BECAUSE AUSTRIAN LAW REQUIRES GOA TO PAY MILITARY STUDENTS PER DIEM WHILE OUTSIDE AUSTRIA. IN ADDITION, GOA HAS MORE RECENTLY ADOPTED VERY RESTRICTIVE POLICY ON OFFICIAL TRAVEL AND PER DIEM, REQUIRING CERTIFICATION ON PRIORITY BASIS OF ALL PROPOSED TRAVEL.

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3. COUNTRY TEAM VIEWS ON SUBJECT, KEYED TO PARA 5

REFTEL, FOLLOW:

A. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW COSTS WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS SINCE TOTAL SUM INVOLVED IS RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT.

B. GOA (MINISTRY OF DEFENSE) IS MOST INTERESTED IN COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE COURSES. GOA DOES NOT PAY FOR SUCH TRAINING NOW AND IF ASKED TO ASSUME COSTS FOR U.S. TRAINING IN FUTURE, WOULD PROBABLE FOREGO TRAINING OR, LESS LIKELY, SEEK TRAINING IN WESTERN EUROPE.

C. OF GREATEST BENEFIT TO U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS ARE AIR FORCE FORWARD AIR CONTROLLER COURSES, ARMY AND AIRFORCE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE COURSES, AND SENIOR INTERNATIONAL-DEFENSE MANAGEMENT TYPE COURSES. THESE COURSES ARE NOW BEING PROVIDED UNDER GRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR AUSTRIA. REDUCTION IN PROGRAM FOR AUSTRIA, WHICH IS ALREADY RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT IN TERMS OF ITS \$25,000-\$40,000 (LATTER PROJECTED FOR 1977) MAGNITUDE, WOULD FORCE FURTHER SELECTIVITY ON PART OF GOA.

D. GOA WOULD LIKELY ABANDON COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF TRAINING IN U.S. IF ASKED TO PAY COSTS FOR SUCH TRAINING.

E. GOA WILL PROBABLY TURN FOR EQUIVALENT TRAINING TO WESTERN EUROPE, EXCLUDING FRG BECAUSE OF 1955 STATE TREATY RESTRICTIONS. NO CHANGE IN COMPETENCE WOULD BE ANTICIPATED. SOME DECLINE IN OUR LIMITED LEVERAGE REGARDING U.S. MILITARY SALES AND DOCTRINE CAN BE EXPECTED. BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE UNLIKELY TO BE AFFECTED.

F. IMPACT WOULD BE MINIMAL IN SHORT TERM, IF GRANT TRAINING FOR AUSTRIANS WERE ELIMINATED. MORE ADVERSE IMPACT LIKELY IN MEDIUM AND LONG TERM SINCE KEY POSITIONS IN MOD AND MILITARY COMMANDS WOULD NOT LONGER

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BE OCCUPIED BY OFFICERS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH U.S. MILITARY DOCTRINE AND U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT. BUCHANAN

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